



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

April 14, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Rosetta O. Virgilio, Office of State and Tribal Programs
Betsy J. Keeling, Office of Congressional Affairs

FROM: William Maier, Regional State Liaison Officer /RA/

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICE OUTREACH MEETINGS

The purpose of this memorandum is to report the completion of the Congressional District Outreach Meetings scheduled for Region IV in CY 2006.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) identified candidate Congressional District Offices for such meetings, using the current level of NRC activities in a particular area as the basis for making these determinations. OCA then contacted the appropriate Congressional Offices to determine the level of interest in having the NRC regions interact with the District Offices. Of the three offices identified, two indicated a desire to have the NRC meet with state/district office representatives.

On April 4, 2006, a Senior Congressional Affairs Officer, OCA, and the Region IV Regional State Liaison Officer (RSLO) conducted two Congressional District Outreach meetings, as follows:

- Morning: U. S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson, 2nd Congressional District, Mississippi, Bolton District Office; met with Mr. Charlie Horhn, District Director, and staff from district offices in Bolton, Greenville, Mound Bayou, Marks and Jackson. Staff from the Greenwood District Office participated by teleconference.
- Afternoon: U. S. Senator Trent Lott, Mississippi, Jackson State Office; met with Mr. Bo Bilbo, State Office Field Representative.

Both of these meetings were well received. The mission of the Commission, policies, roles, and major NRC programs were discussed. Contact information was exchanged and the NRC representatives briefed the Congressional staff members on the programs of interest to them and lively QA sessions followed. The primary subject of discussion was the potential licensing of a new reactor unit at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant site near Port Gibson, Mississippi. The RSLO distributed handouts of publicly-available information on the Part 52 licensing process and tentative timetables for new reactor licensing projects. The Congressional staffs also expressed interest in other topics such as funding for first responders for emergency events at NRC-regulated facilities, transportation routes for spent fuel shipments and safety and security for training, research and test reactors. All of the Congressional District staff members contacted expressed their appreciation for these visits.

NRC staff committed to provide information on the spent fuel shipment routes to Congressman Thompson's staff. The RSLO also committed to provide meeting notice information to the Congressional staffs on the upcoming Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant annual NRC assessment meeting. On the day following the meeting, the RSLO provided e-mail copies of NRC News Release 06-047 which announced the finding of no significant environmental impact from the proposed Grand Gulf early site permit to the staff members who had provided their e-mail addresses. On April 11, 2006, the RSLO provided e-mail notification of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant annual NRC assessment meeting, scheduled for May 9, 2006, to the same individuals.

During the conduct of these meetings, copies of the following Commission publications were provided to the Congressional staffs as background and reference material.

- ' *Protecting Our Nation, Since 9-11-01, September 2004*
- ' *Security at Nuclear Power Plants, CD*
- ' *Information Digest, 2005-2006 Edition*

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Memorandum to Rosetta O. Virgilio
and Betsy J. Keeling

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